

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 00898 071636Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OES-06 FEAE-00 OMB-01
/107 W

-----071805Z 083814 /50

R 071544Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5703
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A
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SUBJECT:TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS ABOUT EURO-ARAB
DIALOGUE

1. TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY GAVE CONSIDERABLE
ATTENTION TO FORTHCOMING EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE MEETING IN

PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 4. EXPRESSING STRONG OPTIMISM ON OUTCOME OF MEETING, CHATTY SAID THAT WHILE DIALOGUE WILL NOT BE "TOTAL HARMONY" IT NEVERTHELESS WILL BE VERY USEFUL. CHATTY NOTED THREE REASONS FOR OPTIMISM, FIRST BEING CHANGE IN EUROPEAN CONCEPT OF DIALOGUE, WHICH EARLIER WAS "RESTRICTIVE" (REFUSAL TO ASSOCIATE DISCUSSION AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS) TO DISCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC ISSUES. CHATTY SAID THAT NOW BECAUSE OF ROLE PLAYED BY FRANCE WITHIN EC THE TWO ISSUES WILL BE ON SAME "DISCUSSION TABLE".

2. SECOND REASON FOR OPTIMISM IS SOLUTION OF QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ON BASIS OF FORMULA SUGGESTED BY EUROPE FOR SINGLE ARAB DELEGATION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES. THIRD IS ABSENCE OF PETROLEUM ISSUE FROM AGENDA, AS THIS CAN BETTER BE DISCUSSED IN CONTEXT OF PRODUCER-CONSUMER ENERGY CONFERENCE.

3. CHATTY SAID THAT FOUR THEMES WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN FEBRUARY 10 - 12 MEETING; TRANSFER OF EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY TO ARAB WORLD, PROTECTION OF PETRO-DOLLAR INVESTMENTS IN EUROPE, COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES FOR BOTH SIDES, AND PROBLEM OF ARAB WORKERS IN EUROPE. FONMIN NOTED THAT WHILE THIS MEETING IS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, CONCRETE RESULTS "COULD PAVE WAY FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL".

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